Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Minutes of Meeting
March 1, 2010

Present: Abbas Aminmansour, Chair; Max Ellithorpe, Bettina Francis, Emily Ganschinietz, Phillip Geil, Tania Ionin, Natasha Jankowski, Michael Krassa, Jordan McNamara, Steve Michael, Gay Miller, David Olsen, David Strauser, Leslie Struble

Ex officio: Brenda Clevenger, Andrea Golato, Laurie Kramer, Kristi Kuntz, Faye Lesht, Carol Malmgren

Guests: Carol Livingstone, Ann Mester
Mary Ramsbottom, LAS Associate Dean (Grade Replacement); Kevin Waspi, Chair, Conference on Conduct Governance (Reading Day/Finals)

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy was called to order on Monday, March 1, at 1:10 p.m., in 232 English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the February 8 meeting were approved as amended.

II. Remarks of the Chair. Chair Aminmansour noted that EP.10.22 and EP.10.34 were pulled from the February 22 Senate agenda due to budgetary concerns (subsequent to EPC discussion and action on these proposals; re 1/25/10 and 2/8/10 minutes). The financial implications of these proposals are being reconsidered by the Provost’s office. The Chair also noted that EP.10.19 was pulled from the February 22 Senate agenda, as the letters of support have not yet been received (re 1/25/10 EPC minutes). Chair Aminmansour met with the EPC Subcommittee Chairs and the Recording Secretary prior to the day’s meeting to discuss ways to improve the process for confirming the status of EPC proposals slated for Senate action.

Additionally, Chair Aminmansour reported on the following:

- ICES Online Update (see Item IV below);
- Future discussion of the effects of the current budgetary situation on EPC proposals: Campus Steering Committee Chair Debasish Dutta and Associate Provost Michael Andrechak will join EPC on March 15;
- Procedures for Reorganization of Academic Units: confirmation by campus administrators to adhere to Senate process <http://senate.illinois.edu/ep/reorganization.html>; public hearing for departments in College of Education (re EP.10.37); future meeting with Institute of Aviation Director Tom Emanuel;
- Workflow system update: demonstration to be held this week;
- Administrative approvals (see Item III below).

III. Updates from the Provost’s Office and Graduate College. Assistant Provost Kristi Kuntz reported the following requests for administrative approval from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

BSLAS in Statistics: students are currently required to take STAT 200 – Data Analysis. The department proposes adding STAT 212 – Biostatistics as an alternative to STAT 200. The revision is intended to offer students more choices. STAT 212 is currently under review at the college level and will be available to students in Fall 2010. In addition, STAT 440 – Statistical Data Management and STAT 448 – Advanced Data Analysis have been added to the list of courses in which a student must select four courses.

Environmental Fellows Program, Undergraduate Minor: the School of Earth, Society and Environment proposes removal of ENVS 350 – Environmental Studies Workshop as a required course for the minor; the course is no longer offered. Students will now be required to take ESE/ATMS 311 – Environmental Issues Today as well as completing an independent research project.
Professor Michael raised a question about the course approval process and the role of the Educational Policy Committee. It was discussed that a course review of LER 210 performed in October with feedback from Professor Geil, Professor Michael and Mr. Olsen had received no response from the sponsor, but was listed in the Course Catalog to be offered in the Summer 2010 term. Assistant Provost Kuntz noted that the structural issues in the course had been addressed and that many of the concerns raised related to issues of content. She informed the review group that she would request a response from the sponsor.

There was no report from the Graduate College.

IV. Old Business

Grade Replacement Policy Task Group (EP.09.12) met on Thursday, October 29, and developed new language, which has since been transmitted to and reviewed by the Council of Undergraduate Deans. The proposal with track changes (insertions, deletions and comments)—developed in collaboration with representatives of the Provost’s office, Registrar, A&A Deans Committee, and the Conference on Conduct Governance—was discussed at length by the full Committee today. The group agreed to the proposed changes in Section 3-309, Item 1, paragraphs (b) and (e).

Degree Completion Task Group met on Friday, October 30. Dean Lucy Rich will provide a written summary of their deliberations.

ICES Online. At the February 8 Senate Executive Committee meeting, Chair Aminmansour reported on task group discussions with AFT Chair Jeff Dawson and GUP Chair John Prussing. SEC scheduled a Committee of the Whole Discussion on ICES Online for the February 22 Senate meeting. John Ory, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, and Chris Migotsky, Head of CTE Measurement and Evaluation, presented comparison data between ICES Online and the current paper evaluation system. Those present in the Senate audience offered their advice and opinions on the proposal to move to an online system.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

* EP.10.32, Proposal from the Graduate College and College of Veterinary Medicine to Rename the Department of Veterinary Biosciences as the Department of Comparative Biosciences. The vote of VMED faculty on this matter has been received. On behalf of the subcommittee, Professor Krassa moved approval of the proposal. The motion was seconded and, upon vote, approved.

V. New Business

Statement on Reading Day/Final Examinations. Chair Aminmansour provided a draft statement related to clarification of the Code statement pertaining to Reading Day and Final Examinations. (Re: 1/25/10 EPC minutes; Item 3.) It was agreed to propose that campus policy on Reading Day be stated as follows: “Reading Day should be left entirely free of any mandatory course obligations so that students may use this opportunity to prepare for their upcoming final exams.” EPC will give additional attention to Code provisions related to Final Examinations.

Subcommittee A—Michael Krassa, Chair

* EP.10.37, Proposed Reorganization of the Departments of Educational Organization and Leadership, Educational Policy Studies, and Human Resource Education into one Department with the new name of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership; College of Education. Professor Krassa reported that the subcommittee has reviewed this proposal, a public hearing on the matter will be scheduled, and the college faculty is scheduled to vote in early April.

Subcommittee B—Phillip Geil, Chair

* EP.10.36, Discontinuance of the Undergraduate Minor in Food and Bioprocess Engineering; Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering; College of Engineering. On behalf of the subcommittee, Professor Geil moved approval of the proposal. The motion was seconded, and upon vote, approved.
Subcommittee C—Natasha Jankowski, Chair

EP.10.38, Revision and title change of the BSLAS in Earth Systems, Environment and Society; School of Earth, Society and the Environment; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Ms. Jankowski reported on a number of recommended revisions that had been identified by the subcommittee. As additional concerns related to program studies and the concentration were discussed, it was proposed that these be referred to Ms. Jankowski for further consideration by the subcommittee.

VI. Reports to Senate. Proposals approved at today’s meeting (*) will be presented for action at the March 29 Senate meeting.

VII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Christa Petrillo
Recording Secretary

Approved as amended, 3/15/10